

### **Why did you become inspired to write a song for New Moon?**

My wife and her best friend are huge fans, so I gave it a shot. Turns out, it's a great book, great epic love story. I tend to write songs about love and relationships so I was immediately connected to the subject matter.

### **Tell us a little bit about your song and what it means to you.**

With this song, I tried to capture the wide range of emotions that characterize the story, in particular the torment and longing experienced by both Bella and Edward during their separation. While each character experiences these intense emotions for different reasons, Edward because he's had to leave his one true love to keep her safe and Bella because she cannot understand his abrupt detachment from her, the ties that have bound them from the beginning remain true and strong. As we learn at the end, even Bella, left to her own despair for much of the story, knows deep down that Edward will return.

Rather than focusing only on one specific scene, Bleed really represents the coming full circle of Bella's unconditional love for her soul mate and Edward's ultimate inability to be apart from Bella. As a result, the lyrics really fit both characters, which I hope adds to the appeal of the song.

### **What are other inspirations for your lyrics and music?**

Certainly my own life experiences influence my music. My wife, family and friends are inspirations for many of my songs. I tend to gravitate toward lyrics and music that reflect my feelings and emotions.

One of my newer songs, 'This One's For the World' is really my wish for the world – that we could replace the hate, poverty and violence with love and kindness. I suppose you could say it's my take on a peace anthem.

### **What is most challenging work as far as creating a song? Writing the music, the lyrics, getting it produced?**

For me, the music usually comes quickly and naturally. I carry a small

recorder everywhere I go so that I can remember the melodies that come to mind, because they seem to come at the strangest times. I seem to struggle more with the lyrics, and finding the right words to communicate the feeling or emotion of the song – I'm very much a perfectionist this way. I'd be lying if I said I didn't have about fifty songs that would be finished if I could only finish the lyrics. Eventually, it all comes together. Some songs seem to take forever to write, and others just come together almost effortlessly.

Getting music produced and published, well, that's an entirely different and challenging exercise. As an artist, you obviously have a love for your own music and hope that you get to play and perform it for many people who would enjoy it. Sometimes the business gets in the way.

### **Who are the artists who have influenced you the most?**

First and foremost would be my father, Ken Galbreath, who was a gifted composer, musician and vocalist. He passed away in 2007, and I wrote 'Watch Over Me' as a tribute to him. Both he and my mother were choir teachers, so music has been a part of my life pretty much from the beginning.

Aside from my parents, I've been extraordinarily influenced by one of my parents' former students, now one of my best friends, Jake Niemi. He and I have been writing and recording music together for ten years. I've also drawn inspiration from U2 and Coldplay, and other bands such as Collective Soul, Dishwalla and the Goo Goo Dolls.

### **What is your musical background and how did you come to be a musician?**

Music is in my blood... literally. My family is very musical – my parents, my sister, my brother, the whole lot of us. Music is really part of every tradition we have and is the backdrop for most of the memories I have in life. Over the years, I've picked up new instruments and tried different styles, but there has always been music.

### **Tell us about your other music and CDs, what is your favorite song you've written?**

My first album, Seize the Day was released in 2000, and was produced

by Jake Niemi. Jake and I have collaborated on so many projects over the years, I can't even remember some of them. Jake and I produced "Bleed" together.

Since Seize the Day, I've released a few singles and am working on a Christmas album. I'm just now getting serious about my second full-length album and hope to release it early next year.

Favorite song I've written – It would be a toss up between 'This One's For The World' and 'Watch Over Me.' If pressed, I'd probably have to say it would have to be 'This One's For The World.' The thought of living in a world of peace brings more emotion to me than anything. Even after playing the song a thousand times, the ending is still really moving to me. "No more war, no more hate, let's love each other now and keep each other safe. I know it's not too late, I know that we can change. This one's for the world."

If you asked my wife, though, she would tell you it's 'The Other Side' – she loves that one.

**What is your favorite band/musician right now? Who do you see as up and coming?**

That's a tough one. U2 and Coldplay are definite favorites. I really love Jet, Collective Soul and Dishwalla, and have been listening a lot to Mute Math and The Killers lately. My wife turned me on to Muse, they have some great stuff. As far as up and coming, I think Tyrone Wells' stuff is great, and I've been following OK Go since their first album.